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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/260,250	03/02/99	PAYNE	M GRANTPRIDECO
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EXAMINER

VATERLAUS, C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3627

DATE MAILED: 07/12/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/260,250

Applicant(s)
Payne et al.

Examiner
Clifford B. Vaterlaus

Group Art Unit
3627



☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 5

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: page 15 lines 4-6 states that the end shoulder 48 is in mating engagement with the shoulder 46. This arrangement is not shown in the drawings as shoulder 48 appears to engage shoulder 44. Also, line 6 recites "another shoulder 48" whereas only one element labeled "48" is depicted in the drawings. Similarly, line 9 refers to a shoulder formed by surfaces 46 and 48.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S.

Pat. No. 6,010,163 to Cerruti.

Cerruti discloses a drill pipe comprising an elongate pipe section (5) having a central axis and a substantially uniform outer and inner diameter, a pin tool joint (4) having external pin threads (2) and a pin shoulder (7). Cerruti discloses a box tool joint (1) at an axial end of the pipe

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section opposing the pin tool joint having threads (6) and a shoulder (8) for engaging with the pin shoulder. The pin tool joint and box tool joint have substantially uniform tool joint outer and inner diameters. Cerruti does not disclose a ratio of the pipe and tool joint inner and outer diameters as claimed by applicant. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to size a pipe and joint to fit within the range specified, since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233.

Cerruti discloses the joint internal threads and the box tool joint external threads are tapered. The drill pipe also comprises another pin shoulder (at 9) on the pin tool joint and another box shoulder (at 9) on the box tool joint.

4. Claims 9 and 11-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,010,163 to Cerruti in view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,192,533 to Blose.

Cerruti discloses the invention discussed above but does not disclose the pin tool joint and the box tool joint are each welded to the pipe, Cerruti is silent as to the method of attachment of the pin tool joint and box tool joint. Blose discloses a pin tool joint and a box tool joint welded to a pipe. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to weld the pin tool joint and the box tool joint to the pipe as taught by Blose as a well known method of attachment.

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Regarding claim 16, Cerruti discloses the pipe having an internal upset region at each axial end (fig. 1).

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cliff Vaterlaus whose telephone number is (703)306-9177. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, BethAnne Dayoan, can be reached at (703) 308-3865.

Submission of your response by facsimile transmission is encouraged. Group 3620's facsimile number is (703) 305-3597. Recognizing the fact that reducing cycle time in the processing and examination of patent applications will effectively increase a patent's term, it is to your benefit to submit responses by facsimile transmission whenever permissible. Such submission will place the response directly in our examining group's hands and will eliminate Post Office processing and delivery time as well as the PTO's mail room processing and delivery time. For a complete list of correspondence not permitted by facsimile transmission, see MPEP 502.01. In general, most responses and/or amendments not requiring a fee, as well as those requiring a fee but charging such fee to a deposit account, can be submitted by facsimile transmission.

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Responses requiring a fee which applicant is paying by check **should not be** submitted by facsimile transmission separately from the check.

Responses submitted by facsimile transmission should include a Certificate of Transmission (MPEP 512). The following is an example of the format the certification might take:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. (703) 305-3597) on _____ (Date)

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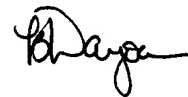
If your response is submitted by facsimile transmission, you are hereby reminded that the original should be retained as evidence of authenticity (37 CFR 1.4 and MPEP 502.02). Please do not separately mail the original or another copy unless required by the Patent and Trademark Office. Submission of the original response or a follow-up copy of the response after your response has been transmitted by facsimile will only cause further unnecessary delays in the processing of your application; duplicate responses where fees are charged to a deposit account may result in those fees being charged twice.

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Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be directed to bethanne.dayoan@uspto.gov.

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Any inquiry of a general nature relating to the status of this application should be directed to the group receptionist at (703) 308-2168.



B. DAYOAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3800

Cliff Vaterlaus

July 7, 2000